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Forward ... from the Sea

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Y2K had little effect on DoD, Hamre says

By Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The millennium bug made few appearances on Department of Defense (DoD) installations around the world.

After checking with U.S. operational commanders Jan. 1, Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre said, “operations are absolutely normal.”

While most of the rollover period was uneventful, DoD did experience one significant problem, Hamre said at a Pentagon news conference. “One of our satellite-based intelligence systems experienced some Y2K failures shortly after the rollover of Greenwich Mean Time,” he said.

Intelligence officials were unable to process information from that system for two to three hours. “The problem wasn’t with the satellite system — they were under positive control at all times,” Hamre said. “The problem was on the ground in the processing station.”

DoD officials went to a back-up plan and were able to start processing the information from the satellites before midnight EST, Hamre said. He said the system still isn’t up to normal peacetime operations, but he expects that to happen soon. “All of our high priority needs, for the DoD and other national customers, are fully being

met,” he said.

Overall, as DoD prepared for Y2K, defense officials fixed more than 2,300 mission critical systems. Hamre said he expects few problems, if any, with DoD business systems.

Most of the system “glitches” officials found were very small, Hamre said. With a range that included everything from cash registers to satellites, he said, most problems were clustered “on the cash register

side of the spectrum.”

“We learned that we did have a cash register that refused to process receipts in Okinawa,” Hamre said.

The Navy base at Diego Garcia in the middle of the Indian Ocean lost power for a short while, Hamre noted, but the outage may or may not have been related to Y2K problems.

Command and control of nuclear forces during the rollover was a major DoD concern. The United States

and Russia set up a joint center in Colorado Springs, Colo., to monitor early warning systems.

“We have nothing to report from Colorado Springs,” said Peter Verga, a deputy to the undersecretary of defense for policy. “The center has been operating normally, and we have had to process no incidents that fit in the criteria of strategic stability issues.”

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Year 2000



The crew of the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67) celebrates the coming of the new millennium while deployed in the Persian Gulf. Kennedy leads the only U.S. Navy battlegroup deployed throughout the millennium holiday season. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Christian S. Eskelund.

Cohen adds “don’t harass” to homosexual policy, says it can work

By Linda D. Kozaryn and Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Defense Secretary William S. Cohen has expanded the description of the “don’t ask, don’t tell” homosexual policy to “don’t ask, don’t tell, don’t harass.”

Defense leaders are determined to make the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy on homosexuals in the military work. “I think it’s an over generalization to say it’s not working,” Cohen said during a recent trip to Italy and the Balkans. “What we need to do is make sure it’s successfully implemented.”

The recent Department of Defense (DoD) actions are designed to stress the “don’t harass” portion of the policy. The actions, announced in August, tasked the services to incorporate in their training stronger language against harassment. “Harassment on the basis of sexual orientation is wrong, just as it’s wrong on the basis of race or religion or whether a person is male or female,” said Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon during a news conference.

One DoD memo requires that DoD guidance on the homosexual policy be “effectively disseminated to all levels of command” and be made part of training programs for law enforcement personnel, commanders and supervisors. The memo also requires the instruction be incorporated into recruit training and for service members to attend refresher training thereafter.

A second memo seeks to institute consistent and fair application of the policy. It recommends installation staff judge advocates consult

on Jan. 17. De Leon also asked the service leaders to issue strong statements that harassment of service members for any reason, to

due Jan. 17.

“So once again, it’s an effort to emphasize that the policy should be described as “don’t ask, don’t tell, don’t harass,” and to put some backbone in the “don’t harass” part of the policy,” Bacon said.

The addition of “don’t harass” grew from years of military experience. “You treat all service members with respect,” said a defense official. “Harassment, for whatever reason, is not conducive to good order and discipline.”

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— a Defense official

with senior legal officers prior to the initiation of an investigation into alleged homosexual conduct.

The services will present their proposals to Rudy de Leon, defense undersecretary for personnel and readiness,

include alleged or perceived homosexuality, will not be tolerated. Service leaders will direct commanders to take prompt, appropriate action against individuals involved in such harassment. These statements, too, are

Go Greyhound



A C-2 "Greyhound" Carrier On-board Delivery (COD) aircraft lands on board USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67) during flight operations in the Arabian Gulf. The Kennedy battlegroup is deployed in support of Operation Southern Watch. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Chantel M. Chapman.

Navy survives Y2K

By Ens. Charles Robbins, Y2K Joint Information Bureau

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Navy squashed the millennium bug, easing into the new century with barely a glitch.

Commands and units across the globe generally reported no problems as their clocks struck midnight, thanks to years of preparation and trouble-shooting beginning in 1996. Senior officers stressed that today's technology-reliant Navy recognized the grave potential danger early and moved to eliminate it.

In the end, the Navy made good on its millennial buzz lines, "U.S. Navy — Underway on New Year's Day" and "U.S. Navy — Around the World, Around the Clock."

"The Y2K problem has been characterized by some as the greatest management challenge that this country has faced in the last 50 years," said Rear Adm. Jay Cohen, the Navy's Y2K project officer. "The Navy has taken this challenge very seriously,

spending nearly \$1 billion over the last three years to analyze, remediate and test literally thousands of mission-critical

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***— Rear Adm. Jay Cohen,
Navy's Y2K project officer***

and mission-support systems which affect our ships, aircraft, shore stations and people around the world. Thanks to the hard work of our Sailors and the civilian [employees] of the Department of the Navy, we were able to report our readiness for the century turnover in November 1999."

The only glitches reported were minor, isolated system miscues, which were immediately corrected without harm. Perhaps the most visible was a low-tech glitch causing a World Wide Web page sponsored by the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C., to misstate the new year. The software program used to

create the page caused the inaccurate posting, which was quickly corrected. The Observatory's atomic clocks,

which serve as the nation's official timekeepers, functioned flawlessly and continued to report accurate time.

The Navy was able to keep problems to an absolute minimum because of its early battle against the bug. "We made it a command priority," said Lt. Alvin A. Plexico of CINCPACFLT. "It had potential to directly impact our mission, and with senior leader support and the right resources, we were able to identify and correct all systems that could have had Y2K problems."

Troubleshooting technology early on also paid the Navy unexpected benefits. "We were able to get 100

different software programs consolidated down to a few dozen," Lt. Plexico said. "We were able to create a baseline of computer hardware and software and able to gain a focused strategy on the future of information technology."

"The benefits we have gained — whether training or experience — these lessons won't be lost," Cohen agreed.

The media, focused on the Y2K issues, found few bugs to report on.

"The level of interest shown by the mainstream press was appropriate and suitable for the magnitude of the potential problem," Cohen said, offering what he stressed was his personal opinion. "It is to the credit of the mainstream press that they maintained an objective, albeit critical view of the Navy's effort to address this widespread challenge amid 'Y2K jitters' and 'doomsdayers' who were predicting disasters ranging up to the end of the world."

Y2K, con't. from pg 1

Verga said the experience has given DoD an opportunity to reinforce relations with the Russian Ministry of Defense. Other Y2K programs with the Russians were equally successful. These include efforts to ensure the safety and security of the Russian nuclear stockpile and strategic communications.

DoD was also concerned about U.S. installations overseas and if those installations would be disrupted by host nation Y2K problems.

DoD has more than 100 major installations overseas, many with large numbers of Americans living off-base.

"To date, those installations have checked in with us and all are operating normally, both on-base and off-base," Rear Adm. Robert F. Willard, director of the Joint Staff's Y2K effort, stated.

"It is far too early to feel totally satisfied and declare victory," said John Koskinen, the assistant to the president for Y2K

matters. "I think we've got another three or four days of careful and close monitoring ahead of us before we can determine how successful we have been."

Koskinen estimated the cost to fix the millennium bug worldwide was around \$200 billion. DoD spent roughly \$3.6 billion. Given the calm that has surrounded the rollover, some critics suggested DoD overreacted to the Y2K threat.

"The Department of Defense is the bedrock of

America's security," Hamre stated, "and America's defense is the bedrock of stability around the world. You would not be able to tolerate any problems in the DoD. This was an investment we had to make. And it was a good investment. We have had very few problems.

"Did we overreact?" he continued. "Absolutely not. This was an investment well worth making and Americans should feel very good that their armed services are able to defend them today."

U.S. Navy submarine straddles history at 400 feet

By SUBPAC Public Affairs

INTERNATIONAL DATELINE (NNS) — As the world celebrated the New Year, it was business as usual for the U.S. Navy in the Pacific — underway serving America. USS Topeka (SSN 754), a Los Angeles-class, nuclear-powered attack submarine on routine deployment to the Western Pacific, navigated across the international dateline and equator as the clock struck midnight.

By virtue of their location, the crew simultaneously experienced different hours, days, months, years, hemispheres and seasons. And they had the unique vantage point of watching the clocks roll from 400 feet below the surface of the water. Technically, crewmembers could have lost one day completely as they sailed through the dateline.

"All of us on Topeka are proud to represent the United States Navy during this unique opportunity. USS Topeka was the first U.S. ship to witness this. I can tell you that there were plenty of ships vying for the spot on the surface of the ocean during the precise time, but I can assure you we were the only ones at 400 feet below the surface to experience it,"



USS Topeka (SSN 754) is a Los Angeles-class nuclear-powered attack submarine. U.S. Navy photo.

said Topeka's commanding officer, Cmdr. Mark Patton of Cheyenne, Wyo.

The ship celebrated the event by taking small water samples, which each crewmember will get to keep as a small memento of where they were at the fateful moment.

"This is awesome. Fantastic. Words can't describe the feeling. It's better than Times Square. Only 140 other guys can say they brought in the millennium 2000 on the dateline at the equator," said Lt. Michael Bratton, a native of Little Rock, Ark., and Topeka's navigator. Bratton was a key figure in positioning the boat precisely over the intersection at midnight.

The submarine actually

arrived on scene earlier in the day and prepared for the event. After a quick check on the surface confirming that there was too much traffic "on the roof" competing for the key location at the exact time, the commanding officer took her down.

The submarine, homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, embarked on their six-month deployment Nov. 4th. In addition to this brief rendezvous with history, the submarine has a full plate of sensitive missions to carry out. They have spent more than 50 days underwater to date conducting operations in the Western Pacific, and have already traveled in excess of 10,000 miles.

Topeka is the Navy's 43rd Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine and is capable of carrying the most advanced weapons available to the submarine force. Included in its arsenal are the MK-48 advanced capability torpedo and the Tomahawk land attack cruise missile. The ship, assigned to Submarine Squadron Seven in Pearl Harbor, was commissioned in October 1989, has a complement of 130 men, and is more than 360 feet long.

On Navy/ Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week's show:

- * The Navy bids farewell to former Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt.

- * Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen brings holiday cheer and top celebrities to the crew of USS Bataan.

- * The Navy unveils a special jack for the submarine fleet, honoring the submarine centennial this year.

- * Hollywood actor and former Navy Chief, Ernest Borgnine, is honored by the Navy.

Compiled on tape #954, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

In naval history: Jan. 13, 1967

Master Chief Gunner's Mate Delbert D. Black was sworn in as the senior enlisted advisor in the Navy. On April 28 of that year, this billet would become the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON).

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Cohen, con't. from pg 2 discipline."

As a result of complaints of harassment and the murder of a soldier thought to be homosexual at Fort Campbell, Ky., Cohen ordered the DoD Inspector General to assess the command climate of installations in regard to the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. The IG

will also judge the extent to which disparaging speech or expression with respect to sexual orientation occurs or is tolerated by individuals in the chain of command, defense officials said.

In fiscal 1998, the most recent statistics available, the services discharged 1,145 service members under the policy.